



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: ENCOURAGE GAS EFFICIENCY – COUNCILMEMBER INTRODUCES TAX BREAK FOR HYBRID VEHICLES

Yesterday, Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), who serves as Vice-Chair of the Council Transportation Committee, introduced legislation to offer a tax holiday on purchases of new hybrid vehicles.

“With soaring gas prices, it is now even more important to improve energy efficiency in our community wherever we can. I am pleased to introduce legislation that suspends the city vehicle tax on newly purchased hybrid vehicles. If adopted, this one-year tax break will help to partially offset the higher cost of hybrids and encourage more people to look at purchasing this type of energy efficient automobiles,” stated Councilmember Djou.

Over the past two years, the City Council voted to double the vehicle tax. Djou is the only member of the council to have voted against both of the vehicle tax increase measures. The vehicle tax rate for passenger automobiles is now \$30/1,000 lbs. The City vehicle tax on a typical 3,000 lbs. hybrid passenger vehicle will be \$90. Last year, 66,000 automobiles were sold in Hawaii, with hybrids totaling less than 5%. The fiscal impact of Djou’s proposed legislation, Bill 61, is estimated to be less than \$250,000.

HYBRID CARS

COMPACTS & SEDANS

Honda Accord Hybrid	Available now
Honda Civic Hybrid	Available now
Honda Insight	Available now
Lexus GS Hybrid	Expected 2006 model year
Nissan Altima Hybrid	Expected 2006 model year
Toyota Prius Hybrid	Available now

SUVs & MINIVANS

Ford Escape Hybrid	Available now
Lexus RX400h SUV	Available now
Mercury Mariner SUV	Available now
Saturn VUE Hybrid	Expected 2006 model year
Toyota Highlander Hybrid	Available now

TRUCKS

Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid	Available now
Dodge Ram Hybrid	Expected 2006 model year
GMC Sierra Hybrid	Available now

Source: www.hybridcars.com

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